

PHILIP W. GRANDE

March 2, 2015

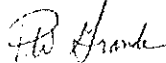
Opposition to SB 984

Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor and Public Employees committee, I am Phil Grande, a business owner in West Haven. Representative Esposito of this committee represents the district where my business resides and is aware of our operations. I have specifically spoken with him about my concerns related to SB 984, and upon his suggestion have provided this written testimony. I have more than 20 full-time and several part-time employees between my landscape contracting and supply businesses. SB 984 will adversely affect these employees and hamper my ability to add employees to my companies.

The vague term of "certain agricultural employees" could be construed to affect workers in the landscape industry as well as in our nursery. In addition, "certain agricultural employees" are no doubt employed by the Connecticut farms where we source a great deal of the plant material we sell and use on jobs. There are no conditions which warrant the need for these types of employees to organize. Our economy is still fragile, and much like the State of Connecticut, many of us find it difficult to thrive lately. Any changes in the labor market will not only limit new jobs, but seriously jeopardize our industry's ability to maintain the jobs which are currently held. This will put our farms and business operations at a disadvantage compared to other areas, and it will needlessly increase the price of material and services which means that Connecticut consumers will be required to pay more for our services.

Please oppose SB 984 entirely or remove the agricultural employee inclusion. I appreciate your consideration and would be happy to answer any questions you may have about my opposition to this bill.

Cordially,



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